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AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

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Mayor seeks all-way stop for Barry-Pine St. intersection

By Gregory A. Scibelli
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AGAWAM – Mayor Christopher Johnson, after consultation and selection by the Massachusetts Department of Education, will ask the Agawam City Council to approve creating an all-way stop at the intersection of Barry St. and Pine St.

The intersection is located in southwest Feeding

Hills and is less than a quarter-mile from the Suffield, CT border.

Pine St. is a very busy and high-speed street on Rte. 187. It begins as S. Westfield St. at Feeding Hills Center. S. Westfield St. veers onto a new street not far past the entrance to the highway portion of Rte. 57, and Rte. 187 becomes Pine St. just before Still Brook Park.

Johnson's resolution,

which is scheduled to go in front of the city council at their Tuesday, Sept. 2 meeting (due to the Labor Day holiday on Sept. 1). It was introduced as new business at the Aug. 4 meeting will be referred to sub-committee well, which will likely meet prior to the main council meeting.

Johnson's resolution says the intersection was "selected" by MassDOT for conver-

sion to an all-way stop-controlled intersection. This means "Stop" signs would be installed on Pine St. Barry St. currently has stop signs while Pine St. traffic is allowed to continue through on the state route.

"MassDOT's consultant recommends moving forward with the conversion of the intersection to an all-way stop-controlled intersection," the resolution states.

"The conversion is pursuant to a recommendation made in a study conducted by MassDOT's consultant, Greenman-Pedersen, Inc., that reviewed the traffic operations of the intersection along with vehicle counts, vehicle speeds, and the crash history at the intersection.

Johnson's resolution states that if the city council approves the change, MassDOT would supply and deliv-

er signage and materials and the town would do the work to convert the intersection from a two-way stop to an all-way stop. The town would be responsible for maintenance of the stop signs for at least two years.

The last major change made by the city council to a traffic pattern in the town was adding a school zone on

STOP | page 10

Mosaic set to be on display at art festival

By Gregory A. Scibelli
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AGAWAM – For the past four years, the Agawam Community Artists and Artisans have put on a diverse art show featuring multiple mediums of art.

In the past few years, the New England Mosaic, a massive collaborative art project, has been on major display at the event.

Next weekend, the fifth edition of art festival will take place.

According to a press release from the ACAA, the event Saturday, Aug. 23 and Sunday, Aug. 24 at the Polish American Club, 139 Southwick Street, Feeding Hills, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

There will be 75 artists and artisans participating in the festival. The featured event, The New England Mosaic, a 120-foot wall of art composed of 170 canvases painted by community members, will be on display.

The mosaic has become an annual tradition each year and displays so many different types of scenes.

There will be multiple items for sale at the event,

many with charitable causes coming from the sales.

The canvases will be sold at the festival, with net proceeds benefiting the Gloria McLellan Art Scholarship. This past May, as a result of the Mosaic, ACAA awarded three \$1,200 scholarships to area students pursuing a degree in the visual arts.

This year there will also be a Children's Mosaic made up of 40 canvases painted by children directed by members of the Agawam Public Library, the West Springfield Public Library and the Red Thread Art Network of West Springfield.

At this year's festival, the upcoming 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence will begin celebrating with an "Art Walk Through History" exhibit. In commemoration, members of the Pioneer Valley Historical Network will be attending the festival. The Historical Societies from Agawam, Southwick, Westfield, Deerfield, The Hilltown Hikers, Chester, Russell, Woronoco and West Springfield will be in attendance. These historical societies will bring pictures and stories that

made their towns unique. They will present their "History On the Go" program initiative that brings historical institutions together for a coordinated "trail" of history-themed visits that allows the public to explore local history. In addition, Rob Keenan of Agawam and The 25th Continental Regiment will parade through the festival. David Cecchi of Agawam, Robert Madison of Agawam, and Bruce Cortis of Feeding Hills, authors of local history, will be signing their books.

The press release also stated a warrior art room, students from Sunshine Village, and Agawam Rocks will be taking part in this year's event.

The Warrior's Art Room, a non-profit organization that was co-founded by Steve Jones, will be in attendance at the festival. Steve, a veteran of the United States Marine Corps, served in Iraq from 2001-2009. The non-profit provides a therapeutic environment to help veterans cope with invisible wounds of war through artistic expression. The center, located in the Keystone Building

in Easthampton, provides space for the veterans and their families to display and sell their artwork. The veterans will bring art that expresses their healing. The art will be available for purchase.

Sunshine Village young adults will celebrate their talents at our festival. Each piece of their art reflects their unique talent, passion and sense of pride. Sunshine Village is located in Chicopee, Agawam, and Three Rivers.

Agawam Rocks will be hosting free rock painting for everyone. Agawam resident Jen Baginski Pronovost and her committee members volunteer to instruct rock painting classes throughout Agawam. The rocks display scenes of happiness, gratitude and fun. She was given a rock garden at School Street Park in Agawam and in the memory of her brother Frank, continues to add rocks with loving inspirational messages on them.

Further information about the festival can be obtained by contacting Ceil Rossi, ACAA president, at carefree2@hotmail.com.



Firefighter promoted, new recruit sworn in

Top: New firefighter Mario Rigali stands with Mayor Christopher Johnson and Fire Chief Alan Sirois after being sworn in. Right: Rigali is pinned by Fire Chief Alan Sirois. Below: Allan Burrage is the latest lieutenant in the Agawam Fire Department after being sworn in.



Lions Club holds lunch, promotes event



The Agawam Lions Club members spent time at the Perry Lane Summer Camp, preparing and serving the club's annual summer luncheon to 125 young Perry Lane campers and the 25 Staff people. The children were very well behaved and very polite coming down the line receiving their food.

Agawam Lions has joined up with Soapy Noble Car Wash in Feeding Hills. Through Aug. 17, anyone cleaning their car who chooses to have wax applied, a donation of \$5 will be passed on the Agawam Lions. This will help us to fund the various organizations the Lions support.



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Shooting suspect will remain in jail following dangerousness hearing

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – On Tuesday, Aug. 4, the juvenile who is being accused of shooting at police inside the Holyoke Mall was back in court for a dangerousness hearing as prosecutors sought to keep him held without the right to bail until his trial.

Hampden County District Attorney Anthony Gulluni announced following the hearing that the juvenile male, 17, of Springfield, has been ordered held without the right to bail following the dangerousness hearing.

During the dangerousness hearing in Springfield Juvenile Court, the defendant stipulated to dangerous-

ness and agreed to be held without the right to bail, without prejudice. His next court date is scheduled for Wednesday, August 21, for a pretrial hearing.

The juvenile was initially arraigned virtually on Monday, July 28, following his arrest in the aftermath of the incident.

At approximately 4:30 p.m. on July 25, a Holyoke Mall security officer observed an individual allegedly shoplifting and alerted Holyoke police officers working a detail assignment inside the mall. When officers approached the suspect near the Round One entrance, the juvenile produced a firearm. Preliminary investigation indicates that both the suspect

and one officer discharged weapons. The officer was not struck; the juvenile sustained at least one gunshot wound.

Holyoke officers provided immediate medical aid, and the juvenile was transported to Baystate Medical Center with non-life-threatening injuries. A firearm was recovered at the scene. He was placed under arrest, and was arraigned virtually on Monday, July 28, 2025, in Springfield Juvenile Court.

At the virtual arraignment, the juvenile was held without right to bail based on a dangerousness detainer. Probable cause was found, and a full hearing on dangerousness occurred yesterday.

The Hampden District Attorney's Office intends to seek a youthful offender indictment as the investigation continues.

The incident remains under investigation by the Holyoke Police Department and the Massachusetts State Police Detective Unit assigned to the Hampden District Attorney's Office.

In his first statement on the incident, Gulluni expressed the importance of going for a youthful offender status on the case.

"The juvenile's alleged behavior is appalling, and we will seek accountability to the fullest extent of the law. We are grateful that no innocent people or officers were injured," Gulluni said.

The incident caused a panic at the mall when the incident happened, with many people fleeing the mall when the gunshots were heard. No one else was injured but the suspect in the incident.

In the days following the incident, James Soos, a spokesperson of Pyramid Management, which owns the mall, issued a statement on behalf of the mall:

"The safety and well-being of our guests, tenants, and employees remain our highest priority at Holyoke Mall. We are committed to providing a secure and welcoming environment, and we continue to take proactive steps to strengthen safety protocols throughout the property. In close collaboration

with local law enforcement agencies, these measures are continually reviewed and enhanced to meet evolving safety needs, including our Parental Escort Policy, which has been in place for several years. In addition, Holyoke Mall regularly conducts emergency preparedness drills, training sessions, and risk assessments to ensure our team is equipped to respond swiftly and effectively in any situation. We also encourage guests to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity to mall security or local authorities. We remain steadfast in our efforts to foster a safe, family-friendly environment for all who visit, work, and shop at Holyoke Mall."

AJHS Maze Day, orientation Aug. 28

AGAWAM – The Agawam Junior High School faculty and administration cordially invite you to attend our Maze Day and the "Seventh Grade and new 8th Grade Student Orientation" on Thursday, Aug. 28 in the AJHS Auditorium. There will only be one Maze Day this year and we will invite our returning 8th grade students to join us from 3 to 5 p.m. and incoming seventh and new eighth grade students and families to AJHS from 5 to 7 p.m. These times are windows and families do not have to be here for the entire two hours. "Orientation" is open to all seventh-grade students, new to 8th grade AJHS students, and their parents/guardians. We will have two orientation sessions for flexibility for families to attend. The first session will be at 5 p.m. and the second session will start at 6 p.m. Orientation sessions will

last approximately 30 minutes and provide important details for families about AJHS expectations and routines. Both orientation sessions are the same and you only need to attend one. If you are unable to attend your scheduled Maze Day window you may attend the other session but will need to check in with the registration table so you are directed to the correct grade level section of the cafeteria.

During the "Maze" portion of the event, you will receive and complete important paperwork, sign up for school activities and clubs and get more information regarding particular programs offered at the junior high school. In addition, our PTO will also be on hand to provide information on upcoming events and activities being offered to the students, as well as get your input and ideas you'd like

shared with the school and student body. After completing the Maze Days paperwork, students will be provided their Homeroom (first period)/team assignments for the upcoming school year. The process should not take more than 30 minutes to complete and, you will be able to complete the google form packet that will be emailed and also available on our website (www.agawamed.org), and submit it before going into the Student Orientation meeting at 5 or 6 p.m. Our school nurse will also be here to answer questions, collect physical forms, medication and any health-related paperwork. There will be Chromebooks available for families to complete the form during Maze Days as well. Students will also pick up their Chromebooks from Mrs. Bruno-Santaniello in the library during Maze Day.



AHS Marching Band to perform at Smith House

AGAWAM – Apple season will be here before you know it, and with it the annual Agawam Historical Association Apple Pie Contest, which will take place on Saturday, Oct. 4, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Thomas Smith House, 251 North West Street, Feeding Hills.

All amateur bakers are encouraged to enter and must register on or before Wednesday, Oct. 1 by texting (413) 297-4967 or emailing 1855@agawam-history.org. Official contest rules can be found on the Agawam Historical As-

sociation Facebook page.

Local historian and "Whips of Westfield" author Bruce Cortis will be on hand during the open house to discuss the industry that powered the Westfield economy during the late 18th century. The Agawam High School Marching Band will make their Smith House debut and perform stand tunes and pieces from their 2025 field show at 12 noon.

Pie judging gets underway at 1:30 p.m., with winners announced as soon as the judges make a decision.

Signed copies of the historical association's new Images of America title, Around Agawam and Feeding Hills will also be available for purchase. The book features more than 200 historic photos depicting Agawam and Feeding Hills' rich history. Proceeds from the sales of the book will benefit the Agawam Historical Association. The National Register-listed Thomas Smith House and its preserved 1920s garage will also be open for tours. This event is free and open to the public.

Supplies running short for cat sanctuary

AGAWAM – To all of our valued friends and supporters: The Cat Sanctuary is running short of supplies this month. Could you help out with an extra boost by donating unscented clumping cat litter, Kirkland purple bag dry food, Xlarge peepads, Temptations. For financial donations, checks can be mailed to P.O. Box 174, Feeding Hills 01030. PayPal: @FelineFriendsRaffle. Venmo: @Feline-Friends. New drop off location: 532 Springfield St.,

Feeding Hills. *Look for the Feline Friends sign on the side door. Please put donations inside the door.*

Just a reminder that we have a donation bin at the Agawam Public Library. Please include contact information with donations if you would like an acknowledgement. We are grateful for every donation. Local pick up is available by calling 786-5019.

Thank you to everyone who donated goods or monetary donations in July. Your

generosity is appreciated by the cats and their humans. We are still looking for a location for a food drive.

Feline Friends Inc. is a community-based, nonprofit sanctuary that does not discriminate against any cat based on age, gender or disability. More information may be found at felinefriendsinc.org or on Facebook page at Feline Friends Cat Sanctuary. Contact the organization at info@felinefriendsinc.org or by phone at 413-786-5019.

Church Cupboard looking to help out

AGAWAM – Since its inception in May, The Church Cupboard at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church has been able to provide many individuals and families with non-perishable food items. The

Cupboard is open to anyone experiencing any food insecurities on the first and third Saturdays of the month from 9 to 11 a.m. Individuals / families are eligible to receive a grocery supplement only once

a month. In addition, the church is open from 8:30 to 9 a.m. on the first and third Saturdays for anyone wishing to donate non-perishable grocery items. For questions call the church office at 786-5061.



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Hazardous Waste Collection Day set

AGAWAM – The Agawam Department of Public Works is planning to hold its annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day on Saturday, Sept. 6 at the DPW Annex, 1000 Suffield Street between 9 a.m. and 12 noon. Although this event is free to Agawam residents, pre-registration is required. Appointments may be scheduled by calling the DPW at 821-0600 ext.4 or 821-0624 beginning Monday, Aug. 19.

Participants should remain in their vehicle and place all waste in the trunk, rear cargo area, or truck bed. This program offers residents a safe, economical way to dispose of household items that are flammable, reactive, corrosive or toxic. Solvents, pesticides, caustic cleaners, and oil-based paints are some examples of the different types of items that will be accepted. Latex paint will not be accepted at this event. For a more detailed list of acceptable materials visit the town website at www.agawam.ma.us

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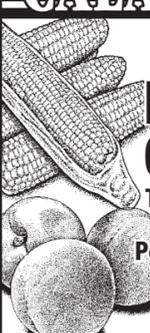
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HCC welcomes human resource specialist Richard Tremblay

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College recently welcomed Richard Tremblay of Chicopee as its assistant vice president of People and Talent.

In his new role, Tremblay oversees the office of People and Talent, formerly known as Human Resources, part of the division of People, Culture, and Equity.

He comes to HCC with more than two decades of experience in human resources, most recently as human resources manager for Prefere Melamines LLC in Springfield. Before that he served as director of human resources at Helix, formerly the Children's Study Home, in Springfield, and senior human resource administrator at Square One in Springfield. He has also taught psychology at American International College as an adjunct professor.

He started his position at HCC on July 28.

"I'm passionate about education," Tremblay said. "My background and my strengths are in training

and professional development; working for an institution like HCC complements all of that. The opportunity to bring the many years of experience I have in the field to Holyoke Community College, honestly, is my ultimate dream job."

Tremblay holds a master's degree in human resource development from American International College and a bachelor's degree in public relations from Northern Michigan University. He is also a certified life coach and recently completed training with the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination in conducting internal investigations and handling discrimination complaints.

"Rick's life mission is to create a culture of service, empowerment, leadership, and fun in the workplace," said Marlowe Washington, vice president of People, Culture, and Equity. "His new mantra in higher education is 'happy employees equal happy students.'"

Student orientation scheduled

AGAWAM – Agawam High School's Grade 9 and new student orientation will take place on Thursday, Aug. 28 from 9 to 10:30 a.m. All students new to AHS are encouraged to attend.

This is a student only event, and is an opportunity for students to meet new friends, school administrators, current AHS student leaders, and school staff. Chromebooks will be distributed and students will tour the building, and access their schedule through the Powerschool App.

Our Student Leaders are called "Chiefs", and will bring them on a tour around the building where they will have time to learn and meet with students who participate in a wide variety of extracurricular clubs and sports.

Transportation will be available for students. There will be a bus picking up and returning students from the Feeding Hills section and another from the Agawam section. The bus schedules are posted on the Agawam High School website and are attached below. We look forward to seeing freshmen on Thursday, Aug. 28.



Rotary Club scholarship winners from Agawam High School were honored at a recent meeting.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Rotary scholarship winners honored at recent meeting

AGAWAM – Recently the Agawam Rotary Club hosted a luncheon at the Storrowton Tavern for scholarship recipients, their families, and representatives from the Agawam including the Superintendent of Schools, the High School Principal and several City Councilors.

The Ray and Reita McCarroll Memorial Scholarship is awarded to four graduating high school seniors, two from Agawam and two from West Springfield, who plan to attend college.

Scholarships are awarded to students who best exemplify Rotary's principal motto, "Service Above Self", and who show leadership abilities and a desire to make a contribution to their home, school, community and country. The 2025 recipients from Agawam were Isabella Oliviera and Samantha Dean. The scholarship winners from West Springfield were Brendan Riberdy and Catherine Ross Desrosiers.

The Beverly M. Ladizki and David A. Ladizki Schol-

arship is awarded to an outstanding high school senior who is planning to continue their education, and with intent to attend law school. This year's recipient was Samantha Dean.

The Andrew Gallano Scholarship for the Arts is awarded to an Agawam resident, graduating from high school, who plans to pursue further studies and a career in the Cultural Arts. Abigail Drimm is the 2025 Andrew Gallano scholarship winner.

St. Peter's holding anniversary lunch

SPRINGFIELD - St. Peter's Episcopal Church is delighted to announce its' 120th Anniversary Luncheon with a special live performance by Connie Fredericks-Malone. Connie is an immense singer of blues, jazz, soul and the sister of the great bluesman Taj Mahal.

This is set to take place

on Sunday, Oct. 12 at 52 Sumner located at 52 Sumner Avenue in Springfield, MA

The time of the event is 1 to 6 p.m., cost per adult is \$100, RSVP by September 30, 2025. For more information contact Debbie (413)782-7050.

Tickets also available at Eventbrite.com

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Opinion

Guest Column



Can my wife get her full spousal benefit at 62 or must she wait?

Dear Rusty:
I'm 64 and my wife is 62. If my wife starts her own benefit now, she will get about \$700 on her own at 62. I will retire next year and claim Social Security when I am 65. SSA says my wife can draw \$1,100 under spousal benefits, so if she claims now will they give her spousal benefits of \$1,100 or does she need to wait until I claim at age 65 to get the \$1,100?

Signed: Trying to Understand

Dear Trying:

If your wife is now 62, then her Full Retirement Age for Social Security purposes is age 67 and if she claims any SS benefit before reaching her FRA, the amount will be reduced for early claiming. If your wife were to claim now (before you), she would get only her own SS retirement amount (the \$700 amount), and that would be a reduction of about 30% from what she would get if she waited until her FRA to claim.

Your wife cannot get a "spousal boost" (an additional amount as your spouse) until you claim your SS retirement benefit (at age 65?). And her benefit as your spouse at that time will also be reduced because she will not have yet reached her FRA. If your wife is already collecting her own SS retirement benefit when you later claim, she will be given her "spousal boost" to make her benefit equal what she is entitled to as your spouse. But her total monthly benefit as your spouse will also be reduced because it will be awarded before her FRA. The only way your wife can get her full spousal benefit from you is to wait until she is 67 to claim Social Security. If she claims any earlier, her monthly amount will be permanently reduced.

FYI, if you plan to claim at age 65, you should also be aware that your full retirement age (FRA) is also age 67 and claiming at age 65 will mean that you will get about 87% of the amount you would get if you waited until age 67 to claim. Again, these reductions are permanent,

except for normal Cost of Living Adjustments awarded annually thereafter.

Having said all of that, deciding when each of you should claim your Social Security benefit is a matter of financial need, while also considering your life expectancy. If your life expectancy is short and/or you need the money, then claiming early is likely the right decision. But if your life expectancy is longer and you don't urgently need the money, then you might both consider waiting longer to claim a higher monthly amount and get more in cumulative lifetime benefits.

Finally, please remember that whenever SS is claimed before full retirement age, Social Security has an annual earnings test which limits how much can be earned by working while collecting early SS benefits. The earnings limit for 2025 is \$23,400 and, if that is exceeded, SS will take back \$1 in benefits for every \$2 over the limit (they take back by withholding future SS payments). FYI, the earnings limit for those who claim SS early changes (increases a bit) yearly and goes away entirely once full retirement age is reached. So, if either or both of you are working, you should evaluate whether claiming your Social Security benefit early (before your respective FRA) is a prudent choice.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



Guest Column

This summer try freezing the harvest

Freezing fruits and vegetables is an easy way to preserve the harvest. More nutrients are retained by this method of food preservation than any other, and the color, flavor and texture are as close to fresh as you can get.

Freezing works by curbing the growth of organisms that cause food to spoil. The key to longevity is to use packaging that will keep out air and moisture. Thick plastic freezer bags, tight-fitting plastic containers (square make better use of freezer space than round), or boilable bags that are made for vacuum sealers are all great options for that purpose.

Fresh berries are easily frozen whole. I've been doing my share of that lately. Any blackberries we don't eat get popped on an aluminum pie tin to freeze, once frozen they are moved into freezer containers where I can easily take out just what I need.

Many people also freeze tomatoes whole, figuring that it's too hot to make sauce now, but it won't be in a couple of months. Thawing frozen whole tomatoes makes for easy skin removal.

Vegetables such as peas, yellow and green beans, broccoli and more are all easily frozen once you know the method.

Here is how you do it: Grab a pot from your cupboard to blanch your produce - this part of the process will help to retain the desirable characteristics that I mentioned above. You can blanch by steaming or boiling.

Reportedly, steaming is superior for nutrient preservation.



While you wash and chop your veggies to bite-size pieces, bring a few inches of water to a boil in a covered pot equipped with a steamer basket. When the water begins to boil hard insert a single layer of veggies into the basket and replace the lid (this part is critical). Blanch for 3-6 minutes, depending on thickness, for broccoli and 4 minutes for green or yellow beans.

Don't have a steamer pot? Try boil blanching instead. Bring a pot of water to a rapid boil then carefully immerse your vegetables to avoid splattering. When the water returns to a boil begin timing.

Broccoli will take 2-3 minutes using this method; beans need 3.

Once blanching is complete, you must cool down the produce as quickly as possible to stop the cooking process from going any further. This is accomplished by plunging the food into a waiting bath of ice water.

I remember reading somewhere that it should stay in the bath for about as long as it took to blanch it. Once cooling is complete, drain the veggies and allow them to air-dry on a clean towel.

This next step is a must if you are freezing in big bags rather than exact dinner-sized portions: Line a

cookie sheet with freezer or waxed paper. Arrange your dry produce in a single layer and pre-freeze for an hour or two, then fill your bag.

This way you will be able to grab exactly what you need when making a meal - pieces won't be frozen together in a big block.

Vacuum packers are great for freezing dinner-sized portions. Simply pack the bags with your blanched, air-dried veggies and seal. Without one you can do a good job of removing air from your freezer bags by simply squeezing out as you can manually then inserting a straw into an unsealed corner and inhaling to draw out what remains.

The kids will find this part of the preservation process to be a lot of fun! Be sure to label the contents with the date - most produce will keep for at least a year at zero degrees.

For a more detailed look at freezing and other types of food preservation consult these great books by Storey Publishing: "The Beginner's Guide to Preserving Food at Home" by Janet Chadwick and "The Big Book of Preserving the Harvest" by Carol W. Costenbader.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 32 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



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The joy of watching Cedar waxwings

My daughter, Paula and family enjoy watching a large flock of cedar waxwings by the bridge near Hardwick Pizza in Gilbertville. They also watch "tons" of bats leave the chimney of the old senior center each night at dusk. Some nights there must be about 50 of them. They fly out and then make big circles around the building while screeching. They do a great job of controlling the mosquitoes population.

The cedar waxwing is one of the few North American birds that specialize in eating fruit.

It can survive on fruit alone for several months. It is a silky smooth songbird with a black mask, tan head and breast, yellow belly and grayish brown under parts. The tail has a yellow band at the tip and some wing feathers have waxy red tips, hence the name waxwing.

Adults perch on high, exposed perches where they are

easily seen and heard. They also have a prominent crest. During courtship males and females pass a small fruit or other item back and forth. The cedar waxwing is medium sized and sleek. Their crest often lies flat and droops over the back of the head. Waxwings are social birds and often seen in flocks year round. They sit in fruiting trees swallowing berries whole or pluck them I mid-air with a brief fluttering hover. They also



By Ellenor Downer

course over water for insects, "flying like slightly, clumsy swallows."

It takes the female about five to six days to build a nest.

They occasionally take nesting materials from other birds nests.

BACKYARD | page 5

Agawam Advertiser News welcomes letters to the editor

The Agawam Advertiser News welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to the Agawam Advertiser News, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to aan@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that

Friday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election. For more information, call 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper

plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in the Agawam Advertiser News.

Celebrating the beauty and heritage of the Quabbin Region

BELCHERTOWN – This fall, the Friends of the Quabbin invite residents and visitors alike to discover the beauty, history, and importance of the Quabbin Reservoir during Quabbin Days (www.quabbindays.org), a celebration of the region's role as both a critical drinking water supply and one of New England's most scenic outdoor destinations. Quabbin Days will be held the holiday weekend of Oct. 10 to 13.

Taking place in the Quabbin Region (www.quabbindays.org/quabbinregion), which is made up of the dozen towns in the Quabbin Watershed, Quabbin Days is a community-driven initiative designed to raise awareness about the Quabbin as the primary water source for 2.7 million Massachusetts residents, and a breathtaking

landscape that offers world-class hiking, fishing, bird-watching, and photography opportunities.

"Most people don't realize that one of the most pristine and carefully protected water supplies in the country is also an incredible place to explore," said Ed Comeau of the Friends of the Quabbin. "Quabbin Days is about encouraging people to connect with this resource as a place of remarkable natural beauty and cultural history by exploring the Quabbin Trail(www.quabbindays.org/quabbintrail) that connects these towns."

Held during the peak of fall foliage season, October 10 to 13, Quabbin Days encourages towns, businesses, and organizations within the Quabbin Region to host events, walks, tours, and open houses that spotlight

what this area has to offer. Participation is informal and flexible: anyone can contribute an event, and visitors can plan their own adventures through www.QuabbinDays.org, which offers a growing calendar and interactive map of the region.

The Quabbin Reservoir, created in the 1930s, is one of the largest man-made public water supplies in the United States. Managed by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA), the reservoir and surrounding lands form a protected ecosystem that supports wildlife and clean water while offering miles of trails and stunning vistas.

To learn more, plan your visit, or submit an event, visit www.QuabbinDays.org.

Senior Center announces new trips

AGAWAM – Insider's Travel, in collaboration with the Agawam Senior Center, has added two new one-day bus trips to its fall lineup for active seniors:

- Tuesday, Sept. 9 – WatersEdge Spa Luncheon and Clinton Outlets - Enjoy a relaxing lunch at this oceanfront spa plus outlet shopping.
- Tuesday, Oct. 14 – Aqua Turf's "Legends of Las Vegas" Show and Evergreen Walk - A fabulous Vegas-style performance and time to stroll or shop.
- Thursday, Nov. 6 – Mystery Trip - A surprise destination filled with fun and discovery.
- Wednesday, November 19 – Radio City Rockettes 100th Anniversary Spectacular - Celebrate the season with this once-in-a-century New York holiday tradition.
- Thursday, Dec. 4 – Encore Casino OR New England Aquarium - Choose your day—try your luck or explore underwater wonders.

New Standby Seating Now Available! Want to travel but keep it flexible? Now offering Standby Seating for all Insider's Travel bus trips! No commitment • Free to sign up • Pick your trips & save up to 25% with last-minute pricing • Perfect for spontaneous travelers looking for a great deal and a little adventure

All Trips depart from the Agawam Senior Center. Seats are limited—Call Jo at (413) 478-4698 or Email: Insiderstravel2025@gmail.com

HCC culinary arts instructor honored

HOLYOKE – Chef Tracy Carter, a culinary arts instructor at Holyoke Community College, was recognized recently for community outreach by two national culinary arts organizations.

In June, Carter, a Chicopee resident and chair of the HCC culinary arts program, received the 2025 Community Outreach Award from the Auguste Escoffier School of Culinary Arts and the Center for the Advancement of Foodservice Education (CAFÉ). The national award recognizes a culinary/hospitality program or individual making a positive impact in their community via outreach programs such as food banks, recycling efforts, skill development for the disadvantaged and other services.

As culinary program chair, Carter has committed herself to building bridges between the college and community groups on wellness campaigns. This year, the HCC culinary program partnered with the Western New England University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences to develop an adaptive cooking series designed for people with disabilities and their caregivers. The goal of the class is for participants to gain confidence in the kitchen, develop essential life skills, and foster a sense of independence and joy around food. The program is entirely hands-on, complete with accessible tools, modified recipes, and supportive instruction to meet diverse needs.

"For me, this award is a reflection of the amazing work happening every day in our kitchens at HCC," said Carter. "It means a great deal to be recognized nationally, not just as an individual,

but as a representative of a program that truly values community, inclusion, and student success."

Carter says she believes food can break down barriers and bring people together.

"This program exemplifies that belief in action – merging culinary education with therapeutic outcomes to serve those who are often overlooked," she said.

Carter is a graduate of the International Culinary Schools at the Art Institute in Los Angeles. She grew up in Springfield and joined the HCC teaching staff in 2018 after living for several years in New York City, where she worked as a freelance food stylist and culinary producer at the Food Network on shows such as "Chopped," preparing the baskets of ingredients for the cooks involved in the on-air competitions, and working alongside famous chefs like Bobby Flay.

The award provides a \$1,000 prize and commemorative plaque. Additionally, Carter received a complimentary registration to attend CAFÉ's 2025 Leadership Conference in Pittsburgh, where the award was presented.

"This recognition reinforces that we're on the right path, and it energizes us to keep growing, innovating, and building a culinary community where everyone belongs," Carter said.

With campuses in Austin, Texas, and Boulder, Colorado, the Auguste Escoffier School of Culinary Arts is the largest culinary school brand in the United States. Based in Annapolis, Maryland, CAFÉ's mission is to link culinary educators with the foodservice industry.

BACKYARD ■ from page 4

Helping birds

A reader from South Hadley suggested I include a section about ways to help birds. She even provided several tips for future columns. In hot weather and during dry periods, it is important for birds to have a clean, cool source of water. Even something as simple as putting out a bird bath and water dishes and keeping the water clean and cool during the summer heat will help birds.

Many people don't realize that birds get dehydrated and the bird baths help them keep cool but equally important, maintain the health of their feathers. A bird bath doesn't have to be fancy, even an old ceramic serving dish would work as long as the water isn't too deep. One reader, who sends emails quite frequently has a more elaborate system with a dripping water.

South Hadley birds

A South Hadley resident emailed she hears an owl in her neighborhood, but has never seen it. She reported



Cedar waxwing

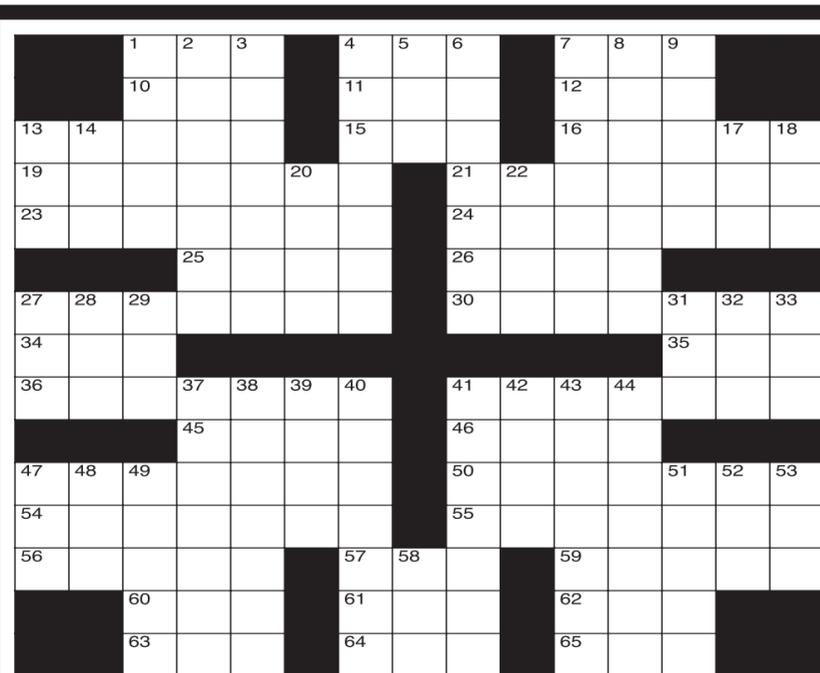
seeing red tailed hawks and turkey vultures. When she sees road kill, she moves it to a safe spot away from traffic so that vultures don't get hit by cars.

cessfully land on top of a lamp post. When it couldn't, it flew just a few feet over their heads into the swamp in the back of the parking lot.

Great blue heron at MacDonalds

Saturday night my daughter, Paula, took the girls to the McDonald's in Ware just as it was getting dark. A great blue heron flew into the parking lot from the river across the street and tried to unsuccess-

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.



- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| CLUES ACROSS | 35. Moved on foot | CLUES DOWN | 29. Small amount |
| 1. Auto manufacturer | 36. Passenger's spot on a motorcycle | 1. Policemen (French) | 31. A way to save for your future |
| 4. The 23rd letter of the Greek alphabet | 41. A way through | 2. Toy dog | 32. A way to travel behind |
| 7. Two-year-old sheep | 45. "Rule, Britannia" composer | 3. Inflamed colon disease | 33. Midway between northeast and east |
| 10. Member of indigenous people in Asia | 46. Leader | 4. Muscular weaknesses | 37. Head pain |
| 11. Airborne (abbr.) | 47. Flowing | 5. Helps little firms | 38. Loud lawn insect |
| 12. Actress de Armas | 50. Common greetings in Arabic countries | 6. References | 39. Actress Hathaway |
| 13. Not moving | 54. Solution for all difficulties | 7. Takes down | 40. Boat race |
| 15. Cool! | 55. Soft clothing fabric | 8. Facilitates | 41. About fish |
| 16. Plants of the arum family | 56. Building material | 9. One-time empress of the Roman Empire | 42. Nursemaid in India |
| 19. Perceptible by touch | 57. Sea bream | 13. Engine additive | 43. Marketable |
| 21. Rorschach test | 59. A way to cause to be swollen | 14. Chemistry solution | 44. Tinier |
| 23. Monetary units | 60. One and only | 17. Written account | 47. Parts per billion (abbr.) |
| 24. Art | 61. Skin color | 18. Consumed | 48. Paddle |
| 25. Cardinal number | 62. Wreath | 20. Coming after all others | 49. Oneness |
| 26. Dueling sword | 63. Nevertheless | 22. No (slang) | 51. Bitter compound |
| 27. Hates | 64. They ___ | 27. Government lawyers | 52. Not around |
| 30. Fixed in one place | 65. Sea eagle | 28. Super Bowl winner Manning | 53. Very fast airplane |
| 34. Pie ___ mode | | | 58. Swiss river |

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE xx

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4. Each completed delivery using the promo code **BIGE** between now and Sept. 9, 2025, will automatically earn you one (1) entry into the sweepstakes. Limit one entry via this method per person, per day.

Free Mail-in Entry NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN

BlazeXpress "Big E Blaze to Win" Sweepstakes, PO Box 6403, Holyoke, MA 01041. Mail-in entries must be postmarked by Sept. 9, 2025, and received by September 10th, 2025. Limit one mail-in entry per person.



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SPORTS

West Side wins Women's PVSSL Championship

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Back in the middle of July, Olivia Crespo and her New England Mutiny teammates lost in the United Women's Soccer League finals for the second year in a row.

On Friday, Aug. 2, Crespo guided the third-seeded Westside Sport Shop to a 5-0 shut-out victory over top-seeded Here for Beer in the women's finals of the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League at Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow.

"It was a little bit frustrating coming up a little bit short in the National Finals once again this year," said Crespo, who graduated from Ludlow High School. "I had a lot of confidence coming into tonight's championship match and I knew that we would be able to do it."

Crespo, who scored four

goals and had an assist against Here for Beer, was selected as the M.V.P. following the match.

"My teammates deserve a lot of credit," Crespo said. "They helped set up my goals. I wouldn't have been able to do it without them."

Last fall, Crespo was a member of the women's soccer team at Franklin Pierce University, which captured the NE 10 conference championship title. Her college soccer team played in the NCAA Division 2 Final Four.

"It was a really special season," she said. "We're looking forward to having another successful season this fall."

Westside Sport Shop (9-2-1) won the championship title for the third time since Crespo has been a member of the team. They beat sixth-seeded Heat, 2-1 in overtime in the quarterfinals before squeak-



West Side Sports Shop won the Women's Title this year in the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

ing out a 3-2 win over the second seeded Monson Mustangs in the semifinals.

Here For Beer, who defeated Westside Sport Shop in last year's finals, won the

regular season match-up between the two squads. They entered the 2025 playoffs with an 11-1-0 record and earned a quarterfinal bye. They advanced into the finals after

defeating the fourth-seeded Lusitano Women, 2-1, in the semifinals.

"Westside is a very good team this year," said Here for Beer player/coach Cassie

Ashwell "If we were going to lose to anyone, I'm okay losing to them."

WEST SIDE | page 7



Jack Cravo holds his dribble looking to drive to hoop.

Agawam falls to Enfield in playoffs

AGAWAM – Last Wednesday evening, Agawam suffered a tough loss in the Spec Pond Summer Basketball League playoffs. Agawam 7-8 boys fell to Enfield 40-39 in the late part of the game.

Agawam had a tough start to the summer season, losing six of its first seven matchups. But they came back, winning three straight to end the regular season and go 4-6.



Jacob Quimby dribbles toward the hoop.



Michael Hutchinson goes for a pass inside the arc.



Above: Jonel Ferrel tries to shoot over an opponent.



Right: Luke Loughlin attempts the layup.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Sports

Kendall wins Mini 40, Leary tops Mods, Saturday at Monadnock

WINCHESTER, N.H. – Defending track 604 Modified champion Tyler Leary wired the night's main event Saturday, blasting to his second win of the summer on the high banks of Monadnock Speedway.

On the same card, Julia Kendall, she of the famed Bernardston, Mass. Raymond racing family, roared to victory in a special 40-lap Mini Stock feature. Points leader Dylan Zullo won a thriller in the Super Streets, four-holer ace Gordon Farnum stormed to victory in the Pure Stocks, and 15-year-old Hunter Duquette won his fifth Young Guns event of the summer.

The New England Dwarf Car Series was in town, and Andrew Harmon had a huge night, dominating both ends of a 25-lap twinbill to earn two victory laps around the high banks, but also picking

up a cool \$250 SERVRO bonus for sweeping the feature event pair.

Leary and Joey Jarvis sat up front as the Allstates Materials Group 604 Modifieds went into battle. Leary, whose earlier victory was scored on July 5, would never look back.

Veteran ace Todd Patnode, of Swanzey, who'd won a week earlier, blasted into second on lap nine and would then run the rest of the race in Leary's shadow, settling for his second strong outing in as many weeks as he tries to claw his way to the top of the 2025 leaderboard.

The best battle in this one was for third. Back from a pit side engine change a week earlier, Trevor Bleau was up to third early but soon had divisional points leader draped all over him. Robie, though, frantically trying high and low, could never find a path to the three spot, as Bleau

joined Leary and Patnode in trophy row.

It is said that a full moon over a race track spells pure chaos. If that's true, what do you get with a half moon on a clear August night? On this one, you got three ultra-focused Twin State Truck Services Super Streets frantically dicing through a wall of non-cooperative lapped cars, with a large crowd at the edge of its seats from green to checkers.

JD Stockwell got to the front first, with his buddy Zach Zilinski riding in his shadow. Top points man Dylan Zullo was quickly up to second and closing fast, and the sea of lappers was getting closer and closer.

Zilinski took the top spot in heavy traffic on lap eight, bringing Zullo with him. On lap 16, it was Zullo to the point, Stockwell following forward and looking for a path to the lead, But the final

14 laps would belong to Zullo, as the potent trio made its way to victory lane. Zullo hit the stripe four lengths quicker than Stockwell, with Zilinski in tow too, Wesley Stedt fourth. Hillary Renaud rounded the top five.

Hot shoe Louie Maher led early in the Fabian Fuels Mini Stock 40-lap main event, pulling away easily. Julia Kendall, blasting from row four, was up to second on lap six but still way behind Maher.

A lap-19 caution, though, brought both Kendall and high-flying John Fultz to Maher's bumper, with the trio then racing under a blanket until Fultz took the top spot on lap 28. Kendall wasn't done though, rocketing into the lead on lap 32 and then soaring off to win by a comfortable eight lengths, Tim Paquette impressed with a season-best third, just ahead of Cameron Sontag and Ma-

her.

Kyle Begos led early in the Brattleboro Towing and Recovery Pure Stock feature. Four-holer super star Gordon Farnum - he of the double-digit-victory Mini Stock champ seasons - was on a mission though. Dirt tracking most of the way a week ago, Farnum had the Patnode ride dialed in perfectly Saturday.

Taking charge on lap 13, Farnum sailed off to his first win of the season, five lengths ahead of Dominick Stafford, who rocketed from scratch on the starting grid after struggling woefully in his earlier heat race. Pure Stock points leader Kyle Kenny, victorious the night before at Claremont, finished at Stafford's bumper in third. In a post race inspection, fifth place finisher, Jimmy Zellman was penalized for a camber rule infraction.

Doug's Auto Body

Young Gun top gun Hunter Duquette took the lead from Ella Grabowski on lap three of the youth division feature and dashed off to his fifth win of the summer. Maya Bell was strong in second, and Grabowski came home third.

Andrew Harmon twice took the lead on lap three in the two New England Dwarf Car 25-lap features, and each time he rocketed off into a different time zone to win easily and pocket the \$250 SERVPRO bonus cash.

Top Dwarf Car points man Tom Harwood sent a scare through the stands during qualifying, when contact with another car launched him into a violent up-and-over multiple flip in turn one. Uninjured, he returned for the features aboard a loner but finished out of the money. Cody Hodgdon was second in each of the 25-lappers, and Chris Sullivan third. 2

HoopHall announces 2025 enshrinement presenters

Headline: SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame has announced the list of Hall of Famers who will present the Class of 2025 at the Enshrinement Ceremony on Saturday, Sept. 6, at Symphony Hall in Springfield, Massachusetts, the "Birthplace of Basketball." Over 50 Hall of Famers are expected to be in attendance for the ceremony.

Each member of the Class of 2025 was asked to select previously inducted Hall of Famers to serve as their presenter. The decision is made solely by the incoming Hall of Famers or, in the case of posthumous honorees, by their family.

The 2008 USA Men's National Team will be presented by members of the team who have been previously inducted into the Hall of Fame.

The 2025 Hall of Fame Inductees and Presenters:

Iverson (Class of 2016), Dwyane Wade ('23)

Micky Arison - Alonzo Mourning ('14), Pat Riley ('08), Dwyane Wade ('23)

Sue Bird - Geno Auriemma ('06), Swin Cash ('22)

Danny Crawford - Tim Hardaway ('22), Isiah Thomas ('00)

Billy Donovan - Maurice Cheeks ('18), Rick Pitino ('13)

Sylvia Fowles - Katie Smith ('18), Lindsay Whalen ('22)

Dwight Howard - Patrick Ewing ('08), Robert Parish ('03), Dennis Rodman ('11), Dominique Wilkins ('06)

Maya Moore - Seimone Augustus ('24), Geno Auriemma ('06), Swin Cash ('22), Tamika Catchings ('20), Lindsay Whalen ('22)

2008 USA Men's National Team - Jim Boeheim ('05), Chris Bosh ('21), Jerry Colangelo ('04), Jason Kidd ('18), Mike Krzyzewski ('01), Dwyane Wade ('23)

Park to get facelift



Shea Park is currently under construction and will not be usable for at least the remainder of this year as Agawam's Department of Public Works re-establishes the full-size baseball diamond at the park. New dirt will be installed in the infield and pitcher's mound as well as a full overseeding of the field. The field is commonly used during the spring by Agawam High School's junior varsity team and then is also used by multiple youth and adult leagues during the spring, summer, and sometimes fall. The park is located behind William Sapelli School and is adjacent to the Agawam dog and skate parks.

TURLEY PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Kenzie Pastreck of Wilbraham minds the goal for Here for Beer.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Left: Lylah Jeannotte, of Wilbraham gets a quick touch on the ball. Above: Sara Avery, of South Hadley, corrals the ball.

WEST SIDE ■ from page 6

Longtime Minnechaug Regional girls' varsity soccer coach Nundi Goncalves attended the championship match. Several of his former players were playing on both sides.

The former Lady Falcons players wearing Westside uniforms were Emily Howard, Rhiann Ryan, Claire Poinexter, Gaby Williams, Lylah Jeannotte, and Chapin Jeannotte.

The Jeannotte sisters weren't teammates when they were in high school.

"We missed playing on the same soccer team at Min-

nechaug by only one year, but we've been playing together on this team for the past couple of years, which has been a lot of fun," said Lylah Jeannotte, who was a starting defender. "It feels awesome winning a championship together."

Here For Beer goalie Kenzie Pastreck also played soccer at Minnechaug Regional.

The other players listed on the Westside roster from the Turley Publications coverage area are Reese Carey (South Hadley), Gabriella Fiahlo, Sydney Mercier (South Hadley), and Maya Tellier (Belchertown).

Here For Beer also had

several players from the Turley Publications coverage area. They are Macie Bolton (Belchertown), Taryn Cariveau (Chicopee), Katie Gilhooly (Chicopee), Gwen Dugan (Palmer), and Lauren Marjanski (South Hadley), who didn't play in the finals.

Westside Sport Shop scored a pair of goals during the first ten minutes of the match.

Crespo, who's entering her senior season at Franklin Pierce, gave her team a 1-0 lead in the fourth minute after firing a low shot into the back of the net.

A couple of minutes later, Crespo delivered a crossing

pass from the right side of the box to Natalie Matz, who poked a shot into the net past Pastreck.

Westside had several shots on goal during the final 30 minutes of the first half, but the score was still 2-0 at the break.

Crespo scored three more goals during the second half. Crespo's first goal after halftime was unassisted, while Matz and Julianna Beaulieu were given the assists on her final two goals.

Sara Avery, who was Westside's starting goalie, and Chloe Laizer, who also played for the Mutiny, combined to post the shutout.



West Side's Emily Howard, of Wilbraham, navigates through traffic.

Upcoming activities at the Agawam Senior Center

AGAWAM – The Agawam Senior Center will be holding the following activities and events in the coming weeks:

Computer Classes
Monday, Aug. 18 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

The Agawam Senior Center in conjunction with Revitalize Community Development of Springfield will provide Computer Literacy Work Shops twice a month at the Senior Center. Andrew Fluit who is a Digital Navigator/IT Support from Revitalize will be here to provide this service at no cost to you. The class will be available to 9 students per time. We will be sharing the computers. Please call Kristina at 726-2826 to register. First come first serve.

Karaoke, Kettle Corn, And Cousins Maine Lobster Food Truck

Tuesday, Aug. 19 from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Do you love to sing? Do you love to cheer on others

as they belt out their favorite tunes? The Senior Center is offering Karaoke Night.

Agawam resident Raven will be coming in to run a fun Karaoke night and the Senior Center will provide the sweet treat of Kettle Corn for you to enjoy.

So brush off those vocal cords, practice your favorite tune and come down to the Senior Center for a night of fun.

All ages welcome...bring those grandkids.

Cousins Maine Lobster will be here from 5 to 7 p.m. with the option of you to purchase some delicious lobster from their food truck this night! Bring money to purchase.

Come for the lobster, stay for the karaoke!

Coffee Talk with Veterans
Wednesday, Aug. 20 in the Coffee Shop

Are you a Veteran? We here at the Agawam Senior Center would like to offer

you a space to have a coffee or tea on us. Come alone or bring a buddy. We would love to get to know you.

Continuing Sessions with Glenn Olsen
Aug. 22 at 1 p.m. in the Conference Room

A little about me, I was a long term successful Physical Science Special Educator. In January of 2010 I had a severely disabling stroke. For the past 15 years I have focused on rehabilitation from my injuries with both traditional and non-traditional methods. We have discussed topics essential to living a healthy life style such as foods, nutrition, and vitamins. We will continue to talk about fascinating topics such as muscle testing, energy levels, orbs, the significance of color and more. I look forward to having you a part of our discussion.

Michelle A. McCarthy, RMT – The heart-to-heart healing connection

Monday, Aug. 25 at 12 noon

Must sign up in advance.

Reiki is a Japanese stress reduction and relaxation technique. It is based on the idea that a "Life Force Energy" flows through each of us. When your Life Force Energy is low, you are more likely to feel the effects of stress or to feel ill. Reiki is a "hands on" method of reducing stress, promoting relaxation and creating balance in ourselves and our actions. Appointments on Monday, Aug. 25 beginning at 12 noon. Call Kristina at 726-2836 to book your appointment. Cost is \$20 per 20-minute session in the library.

Jewelry Making with Sandy
Agawam Senior Center Computer Tech & Support Club
Aug. 26 from 10 to 11 a.m.

The Agawam Senior Center Computer and Technology Club will meet on July 8 and 22 and again on Aug. 26.

Stanley Park announces annual fundraiser

AGAWAM – Stanley Park is pleased to invite the community to its Annual Fundraiser on Saturday, Sept. 13 at 5 p.m. in the Beveridge Pavilion. This cherished event helps sustain the Park's natural beauty, facilities, and free public programs.

The evening will feature hors d'oeuvres, a buffet dinner, dessert, a cash bar, and show-stopping entertainment from How2Go Dueling Pianos—a high-energy, interactive, request-driven musical experience where two pianists battle it out with your favorite songs and a healthy dose of humor.

Returning this year is an exciting online auction with an added raffle, filled with

must-have prizes you won't want to miss out on, including an hour-long scenic plane ride for three, a week-long Cape Cod vacation, gift certificates to your favorite local businesses, museum passes, and much more.

Follow Stanley Park on Facebook for exclusive previews of auction and raffle items leading up to the event.

Seats are limited, so don't wait—reserve yours now at <https://auctria.events/ivorykeysandmelodies> and enjoy a memorable night while making a lasting difference for Stanley Park.

Please call the Development Office at 413-568-9312 x108 or email development@stanleypark.org with any questions.

Public Notices

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield MA, 01103
Docket No.
HD19P0406PM
In the matter of:
Sylvia Timothy
of Springfield, MA
Protected Person/Disabled Person/Respondent
CITATION GIVING
NOTICE OF
CONSERVATOR'S
ACCOUNT

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the Fifth account(s) of Jewish Family Service of Springfield, MA as Conservator of the prop-

erty of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance.

You have the right to object to the account(s). If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **09/04/2025**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection is based and a

copy shall be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court.

You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the Petition and account(s) at no cost to you.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

Witness, Hon. Barbara M. Hyland, First Justice of this Court.

Date: July 31, 2025
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
08/14/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No.
HD25P1344EA
Estate of:
Barry Francis Sitek
Date of Death: May 25, 2025
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Tracey Lynn Sitek-Flagg of Agawam, MA.
Tracey Lynn Sitek-Flagg of Agawam, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to

serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
08/14/2025

AGAWAM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St., Agawam, MA. on **Monday, August 25, 2025 at 6:30PM** for all parties interested in the request of Nadejda Modirca who is seeking a Special Permit in accordance with the Town of Agawam's Zoning Ordinances, Ch.180, Section 37(B) and Ch.180-8.1 to allow for the keeping of hens at the premises identified as 1099 Suffield Street.

Doreen A. Prouty, Chairperson
Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals
08/07, 08/14/2025

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

Don't Miss Out!



The August 21 & 28 issues of the *Agawam Advertiser* will be **DIRECT MAILED** to all residents! This is a great opportunity to reach many potential customers.

CALL WENDY AT 413-283-8393
EMAIL: WDEL CAMP@TURLEY.COM

NOTE EARLY DEADLINES:
August 21 issue deadline is **Friday, August 15.**
August 28 issue deadline is **Friday, August 22.**



EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of LABOR DAY, there will be an **EARLY AD DEADLINE**

To advertise, place your ad no later than **NOON**

Thursday, August 28

– Thank you!

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The Holyoke Sun OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

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TAG SALE

MULTI-FAMILY TAG SALE. Aug. 15-16-17, 8:30am-5pm. 25 Shore Drive, Wales. Households, appliances, collectibles & more.

TAG SALE: AUG. 16TH, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 162 Breckenridge St., Palmer.

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NEIGHBORLY CLEANING & CARE is looking for mature, responsible adults with own transportation, experience and references for a housekeeping position. Hours 7:30- 2:30. Call Nancy today (413)267-4297 or (413) 544-0864.

SERVERS WANTED
Inquire at **Girly's Grill, 1315 Park St., Palmer, MA 01069** or call 413-284-0005.

The Town of North Brookfield is looking for a **PART-TIME OUTREACH COORDINATOR** for the Senior Center. Please submit a resume with a letter of interest to the **Selectmen's Office, 215 Main St., North Brookfield, MA 01535;** or by email to **selectmen@northbrookfield.net.**

Town of Blandford
Town of Blandford is hiring a **PART-TIME ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** to the Assessors. Duties include administrative support for daily operations of the Assessors' office. Pay: \$18-\$20/hr, based on experience. Communication, customer service, organizational, and tech skills required. Send cover letter and resume to: **dhopson@townofblandford.com.**

HELP WANTED

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WILBRAHAM HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Wilbraham Housing Authority seeks highly qualified applicants for the position of Executive Director. Responsibilities include the administration of 69 Chapter 667 Elderly housing units and 9 Chapter 705 Family housing units. The Executive Director reports to a five-member Board of Commissioners. Work schedule shall be a minimum of 22 hours per week during normal business hours, flexible as needed. The estimated salary range \$46,177.00 To \$54,326.00 is based on the Executive Office of Housing & Livable Communities' Executive Director Salary Schedule. The ideal candidate must have two years' experience in a housing, community development, public administration or a closely related field. Knowledge of the principles and practices of housing management, finances and maintenance systems in public or private housing. Excellent written and verbal communication skills required. Willingness to work with people of various socio-economic backgrounds. Must be bondable. Certification as a Public Housing Manager from an approved organization desired, and may be substituted as a property manager or similar classification by a nationally recognized housing or real estate organization such as an EOHLC-approved Massachusetts Public Housing Administrator Certification Program or HUD. Two-year full time post-secondary education in a related field may substitute for up to one year of experience. Applications will be accepted until 12pm, August 29, 2025. Please submit cover letter, resume and contact information for 3 references to: **Mr. Peter Manolakis, Chairman Executive Director Search Committee, Wilbraham Housing Authority, 88 Stony Hill Road, Wilbraham, MA 01095. Contact: Peter Manolakis (413) 519-8195**
Wilbraham Housing Authority is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Town of Blandford
is seeking a fulltime **ASSISTANT TREASURER/COLLECTOR.**
Pay range \$29.50-\$37.50/hour. Please visit our website for full job description.
Submit resume to **Administrator@townofblandford.com**

TOWN OF WILBRAHAM EMERGENCY DISPATCHER PT & FT FIRE FIGHTER/EMT POLICE OFFICER

The Town of Wilbraham is looking to fill several **FIRST RESPONDER** positions. For application and more information please visit **www.wilbraham-ma.gov.** Review of applications begins immediately. Open until filled. EOE

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Bloom artwork featured at Wistariahurst

HOLYOKE – During the month of September Wistariahurst Museum's great hall will be filled with florals as we welcome in "Blooms," an art exhibit by painter Lora Barrett. This exhibit will feature 99 vibrant paintings of flowers of varying sizes. An avid gardener, Lora Barrett maintains her gardens as a reference and muse for her highly colored paintings, pushing the vibrancy of the flowers to the limit. Wistariahurst Museum will be hosting a solo show of 99 of her floral paintings from September 2-25.

Barrett's artistic journey began with a childhood marked by curiosity and a passion for art. This passion was fueled by supportive parents and teachers. She carried her passion for the arts into her adulthood as she majored in Art at The College of Our Lady of the Elms and began teaching Art in Holyoke upon graduation. While teaching in Holyoke, she continued

her studies at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, where she earned a Doctorate in Education and later taught Art Education at the University. Barrett has received several awards throughout her life for her artwork and for her work in arts education. She has continued her education at Cape Cod School of Art, the Chatham Creative Arts Center, the En Plein Air Art School in France, and Snow Farm, among others.

Barrett's work has been shown in several galleries across the region, and Wistariahurst is excited to have her work in our halls once more. Her paintings are in personal collections throughout the U.S. and the world.

The opening reception of "Blooms" will be held Tuesday, Sept. 2 from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Open Gallery Hours will be held on Mondays (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.) and Tuesdays (4:30 to 6:30 p.m.) through Sept. 25 which will also be free and

open to the public. The exhibit will also be on view during Continued on next page Wistariahurst's Sunday Fundays and other public events through Sept. 25. Barrett will be hosting some events corresponding with her exhibit at Wistariahurst. Saturday, Sept. 6 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. will be Painting in the Garden with Lora Barrett. Paint in the Wisty Gardens with Lora, or just come to watch as she demonstrates her craft. Some easels will be provided, but artists should bring their own art supplies. There will also be an artists talk on Tuesday, Sept. 9, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. where Lora will discuss the making of Blooms. We hope that you stop by and explore Lora Barrett's Blooms.

This program is funded in part by a grant from the Holyoke Local Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Veterans Cemetery friends group holding golf tournament

AGAWAM — The Friends of the Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Agawam and the Friends of the Agawam Veterans Council proudly announce their First Annual Golf Tournament in support of Wreaths Across America, a national effort to honor and remember our fallen veterans during the holiday season.

This exciting event promises a day of camaraderie, remembrance, and community support. Golfers, sponsors, and community members are invited to participate and help lay wreaths at the graves

of veterans resting at the Agawam Veterans Memorial Cemetery this December.

Event Details: 18 Holes of Golf with a cart, lunch, dinner and a raffle entry.

Location: Agawam Municipal Golf Course

Date: Aug. 31

Time: 12 noon

Registration Options:

- Individual Golfer: \$125

- Team of Four: \$450

- Dinner Only: \$30

- Tee Sponsor: \$100 (Company or "In Memory of" dedication)

- Other Sponsorship Opportunities Available

Payments Accepted:

- Check (payable to FM-VMCA, PO Box 03, Feeding Hills, MA 01030)

- Venmo

- Credit Card (by phone)

To Register or Sponsor:

Contact Marline Claremont at 413-221-9548 or email wreathfriends@gmail.com.

Registration forms are available upon request.

Join us in honoring those who served with a round of golf, good food, and great company—all for a noble cause.

Hibernians hosting Annual Traditional Summer picnic on Aug. 24

HOLYOKE – The Hibernians of Hampden/Hampshire Counties invites the public to attend the Annual Traditional Summer Picnic featuring The Healy's at Hamel's Summit View Pavilion 555 Northampton St Holyoke on Sunday, Aug. 24 from 1 to 5 p.m., rain or shine.

Tickets are \$30 per person for adults and 16-and-over, kids 10-15 are \$15. For reservations by Tuesday, Aug. 19 call Joe O'Connor at 413-627-7148 or Fran Hennessey at 413-785-5687 aoh-holyoke.com

The Maurice A. Donahue Memorial Scholarship will

be presented. There will be Irish-American Music; dancing; A Super BBQ-hot dogs, hamburgers, potato salad, tossed salad, dessert; coffee. Also, included is a cash bar; kid's games; giant raffle.

The event will benefit the Maurice A. Donahue Memorial Scholarship.

Quabbin Valley set to host second over-28 fall league

Following up on the resounding success of its inaugural campaign, the Quabbin Valley Baseball League, an over-28 adult baseball league will hold its second Fall League this September and October.

Seeking to create a similar competition environment to its spring/summer league, Quabbin Valley, with contributions from the Valley Wheel Over-28 Baseball League, created a four-team fall league last year featuring the Braves, Dodgers, Cardinals, and Twins.

Those same four teams are set to return and each team tends to have openings on them. Additionally, the league

is open to welcoming more teams in to the league if it finds enough interest.

While the fall league schedule is still under construction, it will mostly feature Sunday morning games played with wood-bat only, which is customary for fall baseball.

There could be some Saturday games added to the schedule depending on the completion of the spring/summer season as well as to makeup rain-outs, potentially. Games are nine-innings long and there is a small playoff and championship held at the end of the season. Last year's fall season was eight games and that is the goal for this year. Free and

low-cost fields are used as well as just one umpire in an effort to keep the costs lower for players. The cost to play will likely range from \$40 to \$60 for the eight-game schedule. Players from outside the Quabbin League may also pay a small fee for insurance as well.

An interest/registration form, will be forthcoming soon, but until then, to express interest in the league, you can email the coordinators of the league at either GScibelli22@yahoo.com or ikhandfield@gmail.com.

Scheduled and team placement for unaffiliated players will be finalized in mid-to-late August.



EXCITING TRANSPORTATION UPDATE FOR AGAWAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS FAMILIES!

THE LOWER PIONEER VALLEY EDUCATIONAL COLLABORATIVE IS GOING ELECTRIC!

The LPVEC is proud to announce the addition of electric school buses to its fleet beginning with the 2025–2026 school year. This move marks a significant step toward cleaner, quieter, and more energy-efficient school transportation for our students.

What to Expect:

- A comprehensive overview of electric school buses
- Learn about their engines, battery systems, and technology
- Compare electric buses to diesel, gas, and propane options
- Get a first-hand look at an electric bus before the 2025-2026 school year begins
- Ask questions and share your thoughts with LPVEC and BlueBird representatives

Why Electric Buses?

- Quieter rides for students and neighborhoods
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Questions?

(413) 735-2200 OR Email: evbus@lpvec.org

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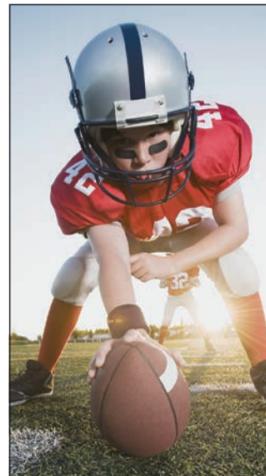
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STOP from page 1

Mill St. in front of Agawam High School. The council established a 20-miles-per-hour speed limit during arrival and dismissal hours along Mill St. from just in front of the stadium and turf field, past the school entrances and ending near the entrance to the Rte. 57 highway. That change was done for the safety of students arriving and leaving the school. Traffic patterns will be changing throughout the next four years during the school construction.

There is no public hearing scheduled as part of the stop-sign resolution on Barry and Pine streets, but public comment is held at the beginning of every regular city council meeting.



Nobody dreams of having multiple sclerosis

Some dreams are universal: hitting a ball over the Green Monster; winning the World Series with a grand slam in the bottom of the ninth inning. Finding out you have MS is not one of them.

Multiple sclerosis is a devastating disease of the central nervous system where the body's immune system attacks the insulation surrounding the nerves. It strikes adults in the prime of life - and changes lives forever.

To help make the dream of ending MS come true, call 1-800-FIGHT MS or visit us online at nationalmssociety.org.

